

Mary Poulos

Regional Special Educator, Community High School of Vermont

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Background: 26 year veteran of CHSVT. Have worked in every facility except Northern Correctional. Currently posted at Barre Probation and Parole. One of the Founding Teachers of CHSVT.

What we provide is Unique

- *Adherence to the mission statement of Corrections that people can change
- *Provide consistent delivery of Educational Services to a Transient Population -both in and out of jail
- *Local community based schools (public and Adult Learning) not equipped to handle offenders
- *Provide Special Education services to eligible students and ADA, Title I, and accommodations
- *Licensed Educators, both academic and Special Education: overseen by CHSVT Local Standards Board which is regulated by Agency of Education

Effects of cuts over last 5 years: decrease in morale, student/faculty retention, credibility/perception of school in Communities which include DOC

Our Response

- *Listened to stake holders: DOC, legislators, students, community
- *"New Order" of model of Risk Reduction that incorporates education and acknowledges Educational needs of offenders in Department of Corrections case management
 - Basic Skills, Vocational training, Workforce Readiness, High School Diploma
- *More robust community partners- this is where offenders need most support- educators have often been their advocates to link to other services
- * Change can only be achieved through Education/Breaking the Cycle of Poverty